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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Romania

SUBJECT Apprentice's Comments on Sovrometal - Resita's Vocational School/Plant Installation

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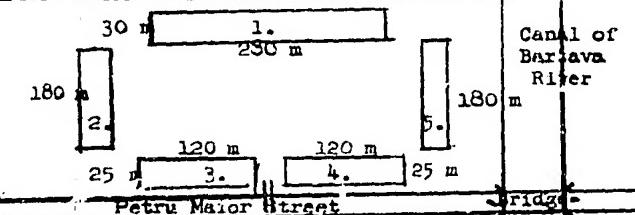
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Scoala Profesionala Siderurgica

2. The Scoala Profesionala Siderurgica (Metallurgical Professional School) in Resita is located at 1/B Petru Maior Street, in the Lunca Pomosului section. The school occupies the premises of the old vocational school, which has been completely reorganized and enlarged.

Situation Sketch of the Scoala Profesionala Siderurgica:

3. Buildings three and four are the premises of the former vocational school. They are two-story buildings of classrooms.

Building one was built in 1949-50. It has six floors. On the sixth floor are the lodgings of the director, some teachers and some female students. On the fourth floor are rooms for male students. The other floors have classrooms.

On the ground floor of building two are the school's kitchen, canteen and the Sale.

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25X1A

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- 2 -

de Festivitati (Festival Hall). On the two upper floors are classrooms and room for school personnel. This building was built in 1949-50.

Building five was completed in 1952. It is a four-story building with classrooms and rooms for students.

4. "Scola Profesionala Siderurgica is under the direction of the former Uzinele de Fier si Domenii Resita (UDR Resita Iron Works), now one of the plants within the Soviet-Rumanian Sovrometal complex. Its purpose is to train new cadres of young workers for the metallurgical plants of Resita. The students are trained as mecanici (mechanics) turatori (turners), strungari (lathe operators), electricieni (electricians), etc. After graduation they are assigned to appropriate departments of Sovrometal-Resita.

5. "During spring 1951 there was a propaganda drive in the local Resita press to recruit

qualifying examinations. Four years of elementary school and worker's origin were sufficient for this. The examinations were oral and covered the following subjects: Rumanian language, mathematics, geography, history and the Constitution of the Romanian People's Republic.

6. "The courses began 3 October 51, the curriculum extending over three years. The general subjects were: Rumanian language, Russian language, history, geography, mathematics and geometry. In addition there were technological subjects, such as general principles of physics, electricity and mechanics. There was also political education, which replaced the former instructions under the title 'Constitution'. There were 25 classes in all. Three days a week there were theoretical courses, and three days there was practical training in the various workshops of the Sovrometal-Resita. The girls did the same heavy work as the boys. [REDACTED] at the Sectia Utilaj Electric of the plant.

7. "There were about 3,500 pupils in all of whom 180 were girls. About 35% were interni (boarders living in the school) while the others were externi (living at home).

8. "The instructors included:

Ilie Berlogen, 40, single, from Craiova. Professor of mathematics and headmaster of the class 2-F-VL.

Stella Bunea, 20, teacher of Rumanian language

Nicolae Bunea, 23, Stella's husband, teacher of geography and physical culture.

Nicolau Sberes, 55, married, from Basarabia. Teacher of Russian language. His 25-year old son was a physician at the Sovrometal-Resita enterprise.

Ion Negrea, 38, married with two children, of Gypsy origin from Agadici (Oravita). A fanatical Communist. Taught technology.

Albert Sontag, 30, married with two baby girls. Director of the school succeeding Albert Iuman, 45, who left in November 1951.

Tiberiu Iancu, 25, single, from Alba Iulia. Taught mathematics and was also director of the technical courses (Director de Studii).

Nicolae Barat, 25, single, from the Caraș-Sebeș region. In charge of political education. Head of the UIM (Communist youth) organization of the school. Regional UIM leader for the whole town of Resita.

9. "All pupils of the school were members of the UIM, including the girls. Each morning at 7:30 am before classes began, all pupils had to gather in the courtyard where they were addressed by the director or (mostly) by Nicolae Barat. These speeches dealt with current political and propaganda topics. All pupils had to wear UIM uniform at all times. This uniform consists of black boots, a dark grey uniform and a cap similar to that of the Soviet Army. Insignia on the left sleeve of the UIM uniform denote the following ranks:

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25X1A

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--3--

Sef de Grupe - Chief of a group of 10 boys in a class

Secretar - Chief of several groups.

Responsabil de Clasa - Chief of the UTM organization of the class.

This was furnished by the school free of charge. They even wore the uniform under working overalls in the factory workshops. These overalls were issued free by Sovrometal.

10. "Working hours for the students at the Sovrometal workshops were 7:00 AM - 3:00 PM. For the work performed the pupils were paid

100 Lei per month (new currency) during the first year,
200 Lei " " " " " second year,
and 300 Lei " " " " " third year.

These wages were paid only to these students who lived at home. All others, no matter to which year or grade they belonged, received only 25 lei per month; the rest was apparently deducted for their upkeep at the school.

11. "Political education at the Metallurgical School was conducted on the basis of instructions issued by the CP and the UTM. There were no standard textbooks or manuals. The Marxist-Leninist propaganda was directed mainly against the Church and religion, to wipe out all the students' traditional biases. Nicolae Barat, UTM chief, declared often in his anti-Church lectures: 'You shouldn't attend church services, because the church has nothing to offer to you. In the USSR there is, of course, complete freedom of religion, but only old women (babele) go to church. They have nothing else to do. Youngsters of the new era shouldn't waste their time on such idiocies but concentrate on increasing production and raising their cultural level through Communist ideologies.' Barat often explained the origin of rain, lightning, thunder, the formation of earth and other natural phenomena. Each lecture ended: 'You see, all this was made by nature, not by God'. Human decency and morals were never touched upon, despite the many thefts, extensive alcoholism and promiscuity among the students. During off duty hours students could do whatever they wanted. Nobody restricted them.

12. "The school had a library and reading room where Romanian publications were available: e.g. the 'Scanteia', 'Vîata Sindicală', 'Scanteia Tineretului', 'Lyptatorul Banatean', 'Flamura Roșie', 'Gazeta Tehnicianului', and also various Soviet propaganda publications. At the Festival Hall and the Mess Canteen political meetings and social parties were held almost every Saturday evening or Sunday afternoon. Communist propaganda films were presented from time to time. Students could attend free of charge the movies at the Casa Muncitorasca (Workers' House) on the Republicei Square in Resita. The following Soviet films:

<u>Tanara Gardă</u>	(Young Guard)
<u>Curcubeul</u>	(Rainbow)
<u>Floarea de Piatră</u>	(The Stone-Flower)
<u>Ora 6 Dupa Război</u>	(Six Hours After the War)
<u>Zico Fiul Poporului</u>	(Zico, the Son of the People)

and the humanistic films:

<u>In Sat La Noi</u>	(In our Village) - the story of a farmer killed by the son of a 'kulak' who opposed the setting up of a kolkhoz in the village;
<u>Vîata Invincibilă</u>	(Life Won) - story of a worker of the Resita workshops who attempts sabotage on behalf of a foreign (Western) power.

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25X1A

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- 4 -

13. The Sovrometal-Resita Plant

"Each pupil was issued, in addition to his identification card and his UIM membership card, a special pass entitling him to enter the premises of the Sovrometal plant. One side of this pass showed a picture of the bearer, made at the photo-laboratory of Sovrometal. The reverse side gave his full name, date and place of birth, address, profession, the name of the section where he was assigned to work, the date of issue and the signature of the issuing official. Across the picture was printed a large 'E', meaning Elev (pupil), to distinguish the bearer from a regular worker. This pass had to be carried at all times and was checked at the main gate and at several other check points within the plant.

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14. [REDACTED] the Utilaj Electric Section, located near the Hala Noua of the Sovrometal plant, [REDACTED] a roll call was held by the chief foreman who entered the names of absent pupils in a special book. The pupils were studying the basic principles of electricity. They were assigned mostly to simple repairs on various machines. They had no norms to fulfill.

25X1X

15. Francis Venk, 65, Maestru-Electrician (chief foreman of the Section), was [REDACTED] a fanatical Communist, was an excellent worker despite his age. His name continuously appeared on the 'Tabloul Evidentiatilor' (a kind of honor roll). He was an expert lathe operator. Conservation of electric power was rewarded by the best worker receiving a triangular flag from the Labor Union, bearing the CGM emblem. To make such individual evaluation of power savings possible, each lathe was equipped with a KWH-meter.

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16. "Almost all machines in the Electric Section were new, either Czechoslovak or Hungarian. The Czech machines came from the MAS factory; the Hungarian from the Rakosi Works in Csepel. Their basic construction was good. They were practical in use and easy to handle, but they were not made of good steel and many parts were of low quality. Consequently, they often broke down and required extensive repairs.

17. "The main offices of the Sovrometal in Resita are located in the villa belonging to the former owner of the plant, Max Auschnit, who now lives in the US. The present Rumanian Director of the Sovrometal in Resita is Miki Munteanu. He replaced Carol Loncear after the latter's transfer to the Ministry of Commerce in Bucharest.

18. "The Barzava River, which flows through Resita, was completely canalized in 1950-51 when the Barzava and Nera Rivers were joined to form a powerful waterfall to provide power for the electric power plant constructed at Valiug. This power plant, located about 9 km. from Resita, supplies electricity to all workshops and establishments of the Sovrometal.

19. "At the Hala Otelurilor Speciale (Special Steel Section) four large Siemens-Martin steel furnaces were installed in 1950-51. These furnaces replaced the old Piat furnaces which were dismantled. Each of the new furnaces produces about seven-eight tons of steel in 24 hours. These furnaces were constructed under the direction of a German engineer, Albert Wahlrich, who came from the Soviet Zone of Germany. The installation had not been completed in summer 1951, when Engineer Wahlrich died suddenly from poisoning. He was buried in Resita, but later his body was returned to Germany. It was rumored that either Western agents or Rumanian partisans killed Wahlrich. The ensuing investigation failed to turn up any positive evidence, but the incident was officially termed 'sabotage'.

20. "Another kind of sabotage occurred in January 1952 at the No 2 Siemens-Martin furnace. All material for the furnaces consisted of junk and scrap iron, including old Rumanian war materiel used during World War II. This materiel had been stored in a nearby forest, on a hill not far from the Hala Noua. Since this scrap contained ammunition and artillery shells, a special commission had to see that no explosives got into the furnaces. Either the commission was negligent or the accident was caused by saboteurs - it remains unknown. In any case the No 2 furnace exploded in January 1952 and 10 workers were seriously injured. The authorities needed a scapegoat and announced almost immediately that a US agent must have committed the sabotage. After extensive investigations they finally arrested a Rumanian worker who, after long grilling, allegedly confessed that he had received 1 million (one) lei to sabotage the furnace. The man was sentenced to only a few years of imprisonment since the checking commission had also been responsible for the explosion.

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- 5 -

- 25X1X
- 21. "At the Hala Noua, in section No 3950, ammunition is being manufactured. This section employs only reliable CP members.
 - 22. "Section No 3580 of the plant produces locomotive engines for the Soviet State Railways, charged against the account of Rumanian war reparations to the USSR. [REDACTED] locomotive engines bearing the inscription CCCP (USSR). The finished engines are inspected by Soviet engineers and then driven to IASI, where the axles are changes for the broad-gauge Soviet track.

Military Headquarters in Resita

- 23. "The headquarters of the Securitatea in Resita is located near the Evangelic Lutheran Church. One of the top officials was (fmu) Surdu, 45, a major of the Securitatea.
- 24. "Strong Rumanian troops from various service branches of the Army were stationed in 1952 in wooden barracks at Lunca Pomosului and in the general Resita area. All around the town there are antiaircraft gun emplacements and searchlight units to protect the combine against possible aerial attack. Each gun and searchlight emplacement is surrounded with barbed wire and is 'off limits' to civilians."
- 25. "In December 1951 a Yugoslav plane crashed on the Republicii Square in Resita. My step-father, a night watchman at the combine, was on duty that night and observed the accident. He said it was a small Yugoslav training plane, bearing the inscription FMRJ No 58 and the Yugoslav colors. The plane had probably got lost and crashed after it ran out of fuel. One of the occupants was seriously injured and was taken by the Securitatea to a hospital. The other man had bailed out but was caught next day in the surroundings of Resita."

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